(b) if so, whether Government are considering to accord sanction for opening of Information Technology College in Jaipur for Information and Technology as well as connecting Jaipur and Udaipur cities with an International gateway-hub; and

(c) if so, by when the sanction would be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has no proposal at present to open Information Technology College in Jaipur. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited has six international internet gateways at Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Chennai and Pune. Jaipur and Udaipur are connected to Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limted (VSNL) gateways through National Internet Backbone of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. In addition, in-principal clearance has been given to five other Internet Service Providers to set up five international internet gateways at Jaipur -and two at Udaipur.

**Skilled Workers in IT Sector**

† 4206. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH'LALAN':

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the requirement of a total Twenty-two lakh skilled labourers under Information Technology Industry in the country by 2008 has been estimated;

(b) if so, the total number of skilled labourers available and working under the industry in the country by the end of the year 2000; and

(c) the annual average that has been recorded with regard to availability of skilled labourers for Information Technology Industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)As per National Association of Software and Services 'Company (NASSCOM) Survey, 4,10,000 IT software and services professionals were employed in the country by the end of the year 2000.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) There were about 1,60,000 IT professionals employed in 1966-97 which rose to 3,40,000 in 1999-2000, thereby registering an annual growth rate of 50%.

**Targets for Development of Industries in IT**

† 4207 SHRI RAJTVRANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that targets have been fixed for the development of Industries under the Information Technology in coming years in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the targets fixed togetherwith the assessment with regard to the total capital investment required to achieve this target; and

(c) the total capital investment in this Industry during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development has set targets of US $ 30 Billion for Hardware (US $ 10 Billion for exports and US $ 20 Billion for domestic) and US $ 87 Billion (US $ 50 Billion for exports and US $ 37 Billion for domestic) for Software, for Year 2008.

Information regarding capital investment is not available.

**Dissassociation of IT from Communication and Convergence Bill**

4208. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has disassociated itself from the revised draft of Communication and Convergence Bill which lias sought to bring all Internet, e-ccmmerce and IT related services under the licence regime;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for disassociating IT from this decision;

(c) whether Government have opposed this move; and

(d) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.